

Message Text

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ACTION STR-06

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TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: MTN SUBGROUP MEAT - EC AND AUSTRALIAN PROPOSALS
FOR INTERNATIONAL MEAT ARRANGEMENT

REF: A) GENEVA 03363, B) GENEVA 508

1. THE GATT SECRETARIAT ISSUED ON JANUARY 9 A REVISED
TEXT OF THE EC AND AUSTRALIAN PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNA-
TIONAL MEAT ARRANGEMENT. THE NEW DOCUMENT WHICH THE
SUBGROUP MEAT HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER AS A WORKING HYPOTHE-
SIS AT ITS NEXT MEETING IS RATHER DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE.
ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS APPARENTLY TO SERVE AS A LEGAL
FRAMEWORK FOR THE EC'S IDEA OF "CONCERTED DISCIPLINES".
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FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NEW GATT DOCU-
MENT.

2. ARTICLE I EXTENDS THE PRODUCT COVERAGE TO LIVE CATTLE,
BEEF VARIOUSLY PRESERVED AND PREPARED AS WELL AS LIVE
HOGS, LIVE SHEEP, PORK AND MUTTON PRODUCTS.

3. ARTICLE II CALLS FOR THE REGULAR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN A "MEAT COUNCIL" TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE. THE COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS TO THE ARRANGEMENT AND SHALL BE SERVICED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT. THE INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED IS TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR ASSESSING THE OVERALL SITUATION OF THE WORLD MEAT MARKETS AS WELL AS THE MARKET SITUATION FOR SPECIFIC MEATS.

4. ARTICLE III PROVIDES FOR THE COMPUTATION OF WORLD MEAT BALANCES AND THE EXAMINATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT BY THE MEAT COUNCIL. SHOULD THE COUNCIL FIND THAT A DISTURBANCE OR A THREAT THEREOF IS DEVELOPING ON THE MARKET IT WOULD RECOMMEND REMEDIAL ACTION. SUCH ACTION COULD INCLUDE UNILATERAL, BILATERAL, PLURILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL MEASURES AFFECTING THE WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR MEAT.

5. ARTICLE IV WHICH CONCERNS HEALTH AND SANITARY MEASURES AS WELL AS SAFEGUARDS, THE STANDARD CODE AND SUBSIDIES MERELY REFERS TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS IN THE PERTINENT MTN SUBGROUPS. HOWEVER, THIS ARTICLE NOTES THAT "GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD MEET PROMPTLY TO REVIEW WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS MANDATE THE APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT CODE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEALTH AND SANITARY MEASURES. THIS MEETING SHOULD INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTES THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE REQUEST LISTS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WILL BEAR ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF HEALTH AND SANITARY MEASURES AND THAT THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNEX TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

6. ARTICLE V MENTIONS ACCESS COMMITMENTS BUT STATES MERELY THAT SUCH COMMITMENTS SHALL BE SET FORTH IN THE ANNEX TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT. MOREOVER IT REFERS TO "JOINT DISCIPLINES" WHICH - IT STATES - SHOULD AIM AT ORDERLY MARKETING. BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN TO ESTABLISH JOINT DISCIPLINES SHOULD ALSO BE EMBODIED IN THE ANNEX TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

7. NEITHER ARTICLE VI, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE AFOREMENTIONED MEAT COUNCIL, NOR ARTICLE VII MENTION IN ANY WAY THE GATT INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP WHICH AT PRESENT EXERCISES FUNCTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE ASSIGNED TO THE PROPOSED MEAT COUNCIL. HOWEVER ARTICLE VII STRESSES, INTER ALIA, THE FACT THAT "THE ANNEX IS

CONSIDERED TO FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PRESENT
ARRANGEMENT".

8. THIS ANNEX CONSISTS MERELY OF A HEADING WHICH READS
AS FOLLOWS: "RESULTS OF BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL NE-
GOTIATIONS AS TAKEN FROM THE SCHEDULES ANNEXED TO THE
(GENEVA) (.....) PROTOCOL AND ANNEXED TO THE PRESENT
ARRANGEMENT."

9. THE SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT (MTN/ME/W/24/REV.1 DATED
JANUARY 9, 1978) HAS BEEN AIRPOUCHED TO WASHINGTON.

10. DRAFTED BY KOENIG. CULBERT

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